

Filed for intro on 06/18/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 565  
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Mr. Wiley Henry for his remarkable artistic accomplishments.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary talent and steadfast efforts have distinguished themselves in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wiley Henry is one such outstanding Tennessean for his remarkable abilities as a painter and writer; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 2001, The *Tri-State Defender*, was awarded the prestigious 2001 A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for best civil rights news story for Mr. Henry's article, the "Unsettled Debt"; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Miller Brewing Company and the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Messenger Awards honor African American publishers and writers for excellence in news, commentary, and editorial writing; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Henry is an exceptional writer and computer layout specialist for the *Tri-State Defender*, and

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WHEREAS, The author of the “Wiley Report,” he has received the 1998 and 1999 Distinguished Journalism award for newspaper feature writing from the Mid-South Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists; and

WHEREAS, Passionate about drawing since the age of eleven, Mr. Henry is a distinguished graduate of the Memphis College of Art; and

WHEREAS, He has created oil portraits and drawings depicting the lifestyles of the African American family at home, at church, and at social gatherings; and currently is presenting his four-part series “Ebony Angels,” which depicts angelic intervention in human affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry has been commissioned to capture some of America’s notable African Americans on canvas, including the Reverend Benjamin Hooks, the Honorable H.T. Lockard, the late Honorable Shepperson Wilbun Sr., former Shelby County Commissioner Minerva Johnican, singer and musician Stevie Wonder, actors Willard Pugh and Clifton Davis, Memphis lawyer Charles Carpenter, and Memphis Mayor Dr. W.W. Herenton; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished artist, Wiley Henry has also completed a twenty-one piece charcoal portrait series of historical Black religious pioneers and inventors, a ten-card Christmas series marketed in Kmart stores, pen and ink drawings of historical African Americans for a Leader Federal Bank check series, a Memphis Chicks baseball mural, and a portrait of Madame C.J. Walker; and

WHEREAS, Last year, his work was featured at an art show and sale in South Carolina, titled an “Evening of Nostalgia”; and

WHEREAS, A former Vice President of the Memphis Black Arts Alliance, Mr. Henry has written and produced public service commercials educating the public about Black art; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Henry has diligently worked to elevate African American art to mainstream acceptance; when he is not quietly working in his studies, he travels around educating the public about African American art; and

WHEREAS, He epitomizes the strength and commitment of a true Tennessean, and his life of activism stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry's pursuit of excellence in all his endeavors is clearly deserving of the respect and admiration of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Mr. Wiley Henry, commend his artistry and spirit, and extend to him our heartfelt best wishes for every continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we congratulate Mr. Henry and the *Tri-State Defender* on their receipt of the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.